

1839 he recounted In glowing- periods the
history of the
Whigs.

I entered public life a Whig; and a Whig I
am determined to remain, I use that word, and I wish
you to understand that I use it, In no narrow sense. I mean
by a Whig,
not one who subscribes implicitly to the
contents of any
book-, though that book may have been written
by Locke';
not one who approves the whole conduct of any
statesman,
though that statesman may have been Fox ;
not one who
adopts the opinions In fashion In any circle,
though that
circle may be composed of the finest and
noblest spirits of
the age. But it seems to me that, when I
look back on our
history, I can discern a great party which
has, through
many generations, preserved Its identity ;
a party often
depressed, never extinguished; a party
which, though
often tainted with the faults of the age, has
always been In
advance of the age ; a party which, though
guilty of many
errors and some crimes, has the *glory* of having
established
our civil and religious liberties on a firm
foundation ; and
of that party I am proud to be a member. It
was that party
which, on the great question of
monopolies, stood up
against Elizabeth. It was that party which,
In the reign of
James the First, organized the
earliest parliamentary
opposition, which steadily asserted the
privileges of the
people, and wrested prerogative after
prerogative from the
Crown. It was that party which forced
Charles the First
to relinquish the ship money. It was that
party which
destroyed the Star Chamber and the High
Commission

Court. It was that party which, under
Charles the Second,
carried the Habeas Corpus Act, which effected
the Revolution, which passed the Toleration Act, which
broke the
yoke of a foreign church In your country, and
which saved
Scotland from the fate of unhappy Ireland.
It was that
party which reared and maintained
the constitutional
throne of Hanover against the hostility of the
Church and
of the landed aristocracy of England. It
was that party
which opposed the war with America and the
war with the